

REMARKS

This response supplements the Amendment, which was filed with the patent office on May 19, 2004.

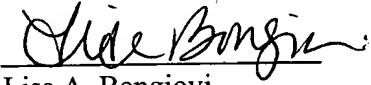
In the previous office action, the Examiner had used Yamada (U.S. 6,246,179) and Yamauchi et al. (U.S. 6,512,504) to reject some of the claims. The U.S. filing date of Yamada is November 30, 1999 and the U.S. filing date of Yamauchi is April 18, 2000. The priority date for this Application is October 1, 1999. As noted by the Examiner, Applicant has properly claimed priority in this Application and have also submitted the priority document on January 8, 2001. Applicant submits herewith a certified English translation of the priority document. Thus, Applicant has properly antedated both the Yamada reference and the Yamauchi reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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